



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

H.A

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/665,501

09/22/2003

Mika Sugimoto

0649-0915P.

6841

2292 7590 01/22/2007
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH
PO BOX 747
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747

EXAMINER

BELANI, KISHIN G

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2112

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
--	-------------------	---------------

3 MONTHS

01/22/2007

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Notice of this Office communication was sent electronically on the above-indicated "Notification Date" and has a shortened statutory period for reply of 3 MONTHS from 01/22/2007.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

mailroom@bskb.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/665,501

Applicant(s)

SUGIMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

Kishin G. Belani

Art Unit

2112

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09/22/2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 09/22/2003.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement submitted on 09-22-2003 has been considered by the Examiner and made of record in the application file.

Preliminary Amendment

The present Office Action is based upon the original patent application filed on 09-22-2003 as modified by the preliminary amendment filed on 09-22-2003. Claims 1-8 are now pending in the present application.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

- In abstract, on lines 6-7, change "send information" to – sent information – .
Make corresponding changes throughout the disclosure.
- In abstract, on lines 8-9, change "every cellular phone as the destination of the e-mail" to – for the destination cell phone – . Make similar changes throughout the disclosure.

- In paragraph 0008, line 3, change “a receiver” to – the receiver –
- In paragraph 0009, lines 3-4, change “user of the mobile terminal” to – the user of a mobile terminal –
- In paragraph 0012, lines 4-5, change “an event that the e-mail is sent, to the second mobile terminal” to – the second mobile terminal that the e-mail has been sent –. Make similar changes throughout the disclosure.
- In paragraph 0013, line 7, change “who has a large mount of reception of the e-mail” to – who receives a large number of e-mails –. Make similar changes throughout the disclosure.
- In paragraph 0015, lines 6-7, change “to the user who has a large mount of reception of the e-mail” to – for the users who receive a large number of e-mails –. Make similar changes throughout the disclosure.
- In paragraph 0016, line 8, change “e-mail that that” to – e-mail that –. Make similar changes throughout the disclosure.
- In paragraph 0019, line 3, change “storing location” to – stored location –.
- In paragraph 0027, lines 2-3, change “such a rate system is employed that the expense is generated” to – a rate system is employed that generates the expense –.
- In paragraph 0028, line 12, change “answer to HTTP” to – response to HTTP –.
- In paragraph 0029, lines 2-3, change “by the cable” to – by cable –, and “by the radio” to – by radio –.

Art Unit: 2112

- In paragraph 0031, line 7, change “and a database that is provided on the” to –
or a database that is provided –.
- In paragraph 0034, line 2, change “101 are stored” to – 101 is stored –.
- In paragraph 0034, lines 4-10, change “if in the past, the e-mail was sent out ten
times to a certain cellular phone “A” and an amount of data of the e-mail sent
out ten times is 1 mega byte in total, numerical values such that the number of
reception of the e-mail is ten times and an amount of received data is 1 mega
byte in total are recorded in the send information database 107 with respect to”
to – if in the past, e-mail was sent out ten times to a certain cellular phone “A”
and the amount of data in the ten e-mails totals 1 mega byte, the number of e-
mails and the total amount of received data (1 mega byte) are recorded in the
sent information database 107 for –.
- In paragraph 0035, line 11, change “number of reception” to – number of
receptions –.
- In paragraph 0036, line 1, change “that indicate” to – that indicates –.
- In paragraph 0037, line 4, change “are prepared as ” to – is in the form of –.
- In paragraph 0037, lines 6-7, change “not the information indicating the
contents of the prize but” to – then –.
- In paragraph 0048, lines 3-4, change “won user” to – user who won –.
- In paragraph 0061, line 3, change “an amount” to – the amount –.
- In paragraph 0061, line 4, delete “is the information that “.

Art Unit: 2112

Appropriate correction is required.

The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 5, 17, and 19 are objected to because of the following informalities:

- In claim 1, line 3, change "prize to user" to – prize to a user –.
- In claim 1 and in other claims that contain "send information", change to – sent information –.
- In claim 1 and in other claims that contain "every mobile terminal as destination of the e-mail", change it to – to the destination mobile terminal of the e-mail –.
- In claim 2, line 3 and in other claims, change "involves" to – include –.
- In claim 2, lines 7-8 and in other claims, change "an event that the e-mail is sent to the second mobile terminal" to – the second mobile terminal that the e-mail has arrived --.
- In claim 2, line 11, change "send an" to – send the --.
- In claim 3, line 2; change "a user" to – the user --.
- In claim 3, lines 14-15; change "satisfy predetermined" to – satisfy a predetermined --.
- In claim 4, lines 11-12; change "send an e-mail that that" to – send the e-mail that --.

- In claim 4, line 13; change "sending an e-mail" to – sending the e-mail --.
- In claim 5, lines 3-6 and in other claims with similar text; change "location information showing storing location on a network, where contents of a prize awarded to a user who won the lot-drawing are stored, from a database" to – location information from a database, showing storing location on a network, where the contents of a prize awarded to a user who won the lot-drawing are stored, --.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **Yamaura (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2002/0016199 A1)**.

Consider **claim 3**, Yamaura clearly shows and discloses an e-mail processing server for relaying an e-mail which is transmitted between mobile terminals and performing a lottery to award a prize to users of the mobile terminals (Abstract; Fig. 1, block 10 marked server; Fig. 5 that shows the process of performing a lottery;

Art Unit: 2112

paragraph 0008, that discloses an e-mail server providing a mail sending/receiving service to devices such as mobile phones, that also writes in a lottery number and an address of a homepage at the end of the e-mail to award prizes to the e-mail recipients), comprising:

sending/receiving means for receiving an e-mail from a first mobile terminal and sending the e-mail to a second mobile terminal (Abstract; Fig. 1, block 13 for sending e-mail to the second user; Fig. 2, blocks S2A01, S2A02, S2A03 for receiving e-mail from the first user; paragraph 0008, lines 1-6, that disclose a sending/receiving service for providing e-mail service; paragraph 0029, lines 1-8 that describe the process of creating an e-mail by the first user; paragraph 0031, lines 5-7 which disclose that after attaching a lottery number to the outgoing e-mail, the e-mail is sent to the second user via SMTP server); storing means for storing send information of the e-mail, which is sent by the sending/receiving means, to the destination mobile terminal of the e-mail (Fig. 2, block S2A07, that stores the lottery number and receiver's e-mail address in a file); and lot-drawing means for executing a lot-drawing applied to a user of the second mobile terminal when the sent information stored in the storing means satisfy predetermined condition (paragraph 0033, lines 1-5, which disclose that the winning numbers are determined at random from lottery numbers of mail sent within a pre-determined period of time).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Yamaura (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2002/0016199 A1)** in view of **Von Kohorn (U.S. Patent Publication # 5,697,844)**.

Consider **claim 1**, Yamaura clearly shows and discloses an e-mail processing server for relaying an e-mail which is transmitted between mobile terminals and performing a lottery to award a prize to a user of the mobile terminal (Abstract; Fig. 1, block 10 marked server; Fig. 5 that shows the process of performing a lottery; paragraph 0008, that discloses an e-mail server providing a mail sending/receiving service to devices such as mobile phones, that also writes in a lottery number and an address of a homepage at the end of the e-mail to award prizes to the e-mail recipients), comprising:

sending/receiving means for receiving an e-mail from a first mobile terminal and sending the e-mail to a second mobile terminal (Abstract; Fig. 1, block 13 for sending e-mail to the second user; Fig. 2, blocks S2A01, S2A02, S2A03 for receiving e-mail from the first user; paragraph 0008, lines 1-6, that disclose a sending/receiving service for providing e-mail service; paragraph 0029, lines 1-8 that describe the process of creating an e-mail by the first user; paragraph 0031, lines 5-7 which disclose that after attaching a lottery number to the outgoing e-mail, the e-mail is sent to the second user via SMTP server);

storing means for storing sent information of the e-mail, which is sent from the sending/receiving means, to the destination terminal of the e-mail (Fig. 2, block S2A07, that stores the lottery number and receiver's e-mail address in a file); and

Art Unit: 2112

lot-drawing means for executing a lot-drawing at the winning probability decided by the winning probability deciding means (paragraph 0033, lines 1-5, which disclose that the winning numbers are determined at random from lottery numbers of mail sent within a pre-determined period of time).

Yamaura however fails to disclose winning probability deciding means for deciding a winning probability of a drawing of lots applied to a user of the second mobile terminal according to the sent information stored in the storing means; and lot-drawing means for executing a lot-drawing at the winning probability decided by the winning probability deciding means.

In the same field of endeavor, Von Kohorn clearly disclose a method (column 121, lines 4-38) that while all entered responses in the described contest have a chance of winning a sweepstakes prize, entered responses with superior scores are weighted so as to increase the probability of winning.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the concept taught by Von Kohorn in the server of Yamaura, to assign higher weights (thereby assigning higher winning probability) to those (favored) customers that either receive more e-mails or have larger volume of e-mail content; these considerations being equivalent to superior responses getting higher scores assigned to them.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamaura (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2002/0016199 A1) in view of Von Kohorn

(U.S. Patent Publication # 5,697,844) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Noh et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2001/0051896 A1).

Consider **claim 2**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Yamaura as modified by Von Kohorn, clearly shows and discloses that the sending/receiving means involves: receiving means for receiving the e-mail from the first mobile terminal (Fig. 2, blocks S2A01, S2A02, S2A03 for receiving e-mail from the first user; paragraph 0008, lines 1-6, that disclose a sending/receiving service for providing e-mail service to mobile phones over a network; paragraph 0029, lines 1-8 that describe the process of creating an e-mail by the first user);

Yamaura as modified by Von Kohorn, however fails to disclose notice information sending means for sending notice information, which informs the second mobile terminal that an e-mail has been sent to the recipient; request-to-send information receiving means for receiving request-to-send information, which is sent from the second mobile terminal, for requesting to send an e-mail that the notice information shows; and sending means for sending an e-mail to the second mobile terminal in response to the request-to-send information received by the request-to-send information receiving means.

In the same field of endeavor, Noh et al. clearly show and disclose a notice information sending means for sending notice information, which informs the second mobile terminal that an e-mail has been sent to the recipient (Fig. 3F, that shows

received mail tray 660 in Outlook Express Window and block 650 which is the notice from the SMTP server to the recipient of the e-mail; paragraph 0086 which indicates the presence of a notice information sending means at the sending server that sent the e-mail notices to the recipient).

Noh et al. also clearly show and disclose a request-to-send information receiving means for receiving request-to-send information, which is sent from the second mobile terminal, for requesting to send an e-mail that the notice information shows (Fig. 3G that shows block 651 representing notice from the server, the block containing "acceptance" button 652 as well as "candle" button; either of which when clicked, requests the sending server to send an e-mail that the notice information shows; which indicates the presence of a request-to-send information receiving means at the sending server).

In addition, Noh et al. also clearly show and disclose a sending means for sending an e-mail to the second mobile terminal in response to the request-to-send information received by the request-to-send information receiving means (Fig. 3H that shows an advertisement window 651 sent by the server along with the e-mail to the second mobile terminal recipient in response to the recipient clicking on either the "acceptance" button 652 or the "candle" button in Fig. 3G; which indicates the presence of a sending means for sending an e-mail to the second mobile terminal).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the concept taught by Noh in the server of Yamaura as modified by Von Kohorn, to provide additional means of communications for the second mobile terminal user by giving the user options to either accept the gift

and the email or reject the gift and only receive the email by clicking on the appropriate buttons.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Yamaura (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2002/0016199 A1)** as applied to claim 3 above, in view of **Noh et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2001/0051896 A1)**.

Consider **claim 4**, and as applied to claim 3 above, Yamaura clearly shows and discloses that the sending/receiving means includes:
receiving means for receiving the e-mail from the first mobile terminal (Fig. 2, blocks S2A01, S2A02, S2A03 for receiving e-mail from the first user; paragraph 0008, lines 1-6, that disclose a sending/receiving service for providing e-mail service to mobile phones over a network; paragraph 0029, lines 1-8 that describe the process of creating an e-mail by the first user);

Yamaura however fails to disclose notice information sending means for sending notice information, which informs the second mobile terminal that an e-mail has been sent to the recipient; request-to-send information receiving means for receiving request-to-send information, which is sent from the second mobile terminal, for requesting to send an e-mail that the notice information shows; and sending means for sending an e-mail to the second mobile terminal in response to the request-to-send information received by the request-to-send information receiving means.

In the same field of endeavor, Noh et al. clearly show and disclose a notice information sending means for sending notice information, which informs the second mobile terminal that an e-mail has been sent to the recipient (Fig. 3F, that shows received mail tray 660 in Outlook Express Window and block 650 which is the notice from the SMTP server to the recipient of the e-mail; paragraph 0086 which indicates the presence of a notice information sending means at the sending server that sent the e-mail notices to the recipient).

Noh et al. also clearly show and disclose a request-to-send information receiving means for receiving request-to-send information, which is sent from the second mobile terminal, for requesting to send an e-mail that the notice information shows (Fig. 3G that shows block 651 representing notice from the server, the block containing "acceptance" button 652 as well as "candle" button; either of which when clicked, requests the sending server to send an e-mail that the notice information shows; which indicates the presence of a request-to-send information receiving means at the sending server).

In addition, Noh et al. also clearly show and disclose a sending means for sending an e-mail to the second mobile terminal in response to the request-to-send information received by the request-to-send information receiving means (Fig. 3H that shows an advertisement window 651 sent by the server along with the e-mail to the second mobile terminal recipient in response to the recipient clicking on either the "acceptance" button 652 or the "candle" button in Fig. 3G; which indicates the presence of a sending means for sending an e-mail to the second mobile terminal).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the concept taught by Noh in the server of Yamaura, to provide additional means of communications for the second mobile terminal user by giving the user options to either accept the gift and the email or reject the gift and only receive the email by clicking on the appropriate buttons.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Yamaura (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2002/0016199 A1)** in view of **Von Kohorn (U.S. Patent Publication # 5,697,844)** as applied to **claim 1** above, and further in view of **Acres (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2002/0061778 A1)**.

Consider **claim 5**, and **as applied to claim 1** above, Yamaura as modified by Von Kohorn, clearly shows and discloses an e-mail processing server. Yamaura also discloses sending e-mail to the second mobile terminal with a URL link to the web site that stores a prize information database (Fig. 8, block 35; paragraph 0048, which discloses that the e-mail includes prize information and homepage address in the form of a URL link).

Yamaura as modified by Von Kohorn, however fails to disclose that the e-mail processing server further comprises acquiring means for acquiring storing location information showing storing location on a network, where contents of a prize awarded to a user who won the lot-drawing are stored, from a database.

Yamaura as modified by Von Kohorn, also fails to disclose that the e-mail processing server in addition comprises storing location information sending means for attaching the storing location information acquired by the acquiring means to an e-mail, which is to be sent to a mobile terminal of the user who won the lot-drawing, and then sending the e-mail to the mobile terminal;

In the same field of endeavor, Acres clearly shows and discloses an acquiring means for acquiring storing location information showing storing location on a network, where contents of a prize awarded to a user who won the lot-drawing are stored, from a database (Fig. 10, blocks 1020, 1025, and 1027; paragraph 0033, lines 23-28, which disclose an acquiring means (game program database 1025 in the game/redemption server 1020) and a reward redemption database 1027 that the game program 1025 searches for the prize won by the user; Fig. 9, block 909; paragraph 0032, lines 18-20, which describe that the redemption routine displays a reward web page in order to facilitate selection and delivery of the reward, thereby disclosing an acquiring means that provides the location of awarded prizes); and storing location information sending means for attaching the storing location information acquired by the acquiring means to an e-mail, which is to be sent to a mobile terminal of the user who won the lot-drawing, and then sending the e-mail to the mobile terminal (Fig. 8, block 815; paragraph 0031, lines 28-29, which disclose that the game program displays a link to a redemption web site).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the concept taught by Acres in the server of

Art Unit: 2112

Yamaura as modified by Von Kohorn, to provide means of searching the prize information database for the purpose of supplying the URL address of the prize information database in an email to the recipient so as to help the winner recipient quickly claim his or her prize.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Yamaura (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2002/0016199 A1)** in view of **Acres (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2002/0061778 A1)**.

Consider **claim 6**, and **as applied to claim 3 above**, Yamaura clearly shows and discloses an e-mail processing server. Yamaura also discloses sending an e-mail to the second mobile terminal with a URL link to the web site that stores a prize information database (Fig. 8, block 35; paragraph 0048, which discloses that the e-mail includes prize information and homepage address in the form of a URL link).

Yamaura however fails to disclose that the e-mail processing server further comprises acquiring means for acquiring storing location information showing storing location on a network, where contents of a prize awarded to a user who won the lot-drawing are stored, from a database.

Yamaura also fails to disclose that the e-mail processing server in addition comprises storing location information sending means for attaching the storing location information acquired by the acquiring means to an e-mail, which is to be sent to a

mobile terminal of the user who won the lot-drawing, and then sending the e-mail to the mobile terminal;

In the same field of endeavor, Acres clearly shows and discloses an acquiring means for acquiring storing location information showing storing location on a network, where contents of a prize awarded to a user who won the lot-drawing are stored, from a database (Fig. 10, blocks 1020, 1025, and 1027; paragraph 0033, lines 23-28, which disclose an acquiring means (game program database 1025 in the game/redemption server 1020) and a reward redemption database 1027 that the game program 1025 searches for the prize won by the user; Fig. 9, block 909; paragraph 0032, lines 18-20, which describe that the redemption routine displays a reward web page in order to facilitate selection and delivery of the reward, thereby disclosing an acquiring means that provides the location of awarded prizes); and storing location information sending means for attaching the storing location information acquired by the acquiring means to an e-mail, which is to be sent to a mobile terminal of the user who won the lot-drawing, and then sending the e-mail to the mobile terminal (Fig. 8, block 815; paragraph 0031, lines 28-29, which disclose that the game program displays a link to a redemption web site).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the concept taught by Acres in the server of Yamaura, to provide means of searching the prize information database for the purpose of supplying the URL address of the prize information database in an email to the recipient so as to help the winner recipient quickly claim his or her prize.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamaura (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2002/0016199 A1) in view of Von Kohorn (U.S. Patent Publication # 5,697,844) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Acres (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2002/0061778 A1), and further in view of Landress et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2003/0191816 A1).

Consider **claim 7, and as applied to claim 1 above**, Yamaura, as modified by Von Kohorn, clearly show and disclose an e-mail processing server. Yamaura also discloses sending e-mail to the second mobile terminal with a URL link to the web site that stores a prize information database (Fig. 8, block 35; paragraph 0048, which discloses that the e-mail includes prize information and homepage address in the form of a URL link).

Yamaura, as modified by Von Kohorn, however fails to disclose that the e-mail processing server further comprises acquiring means for acquiring storing location information showing storing location on a network, where the digital contents are stored, from a database.

Yamaura, as modified by Von Kohorn, also fails to disclose that the e-mail processing server in addition comprises storing location information sending means for attaching the storing location information acquired by the acquiring means to an e-mail, which is to be sent to a mobile terminal of the user who won the lot-drawing, and then sending the e-mail to the mobile terminal.

In the same field of endeavor, Acres clearly shows and discloses an acquiring means for acquiring storing location information showing storing location on a network, where contents of a prize awarded to a user who won the lot-drawing are stored, from a database (Fig. 10, blocks 1020, 1025, and 1027; paragraph 0033, lines 23-28, which disclose an acquiring means (game program database 1025 in the game/redemption server 1020) and a reward redemption database 1027 that the game program 1025 searches for the prize won by the user; Fig. 9, block 909; paragraph 0032, lines 18-20, which describe that the redemption routine displays a reward web page in order to facilitate selection and delivery of the reward, thereby disclosing an acquiring means that provides the location of awarded prizes); and storing location information sending means for attaching the storing location information acquired by the acquiring means to an e-mail, which is to be sent to a mobile terminal of the user who won the lot-drawing, and then sending the e-mail to the mobile terminal (Fig. 8, block 815; paragraph 0031, lines 28-29, which disclose that the game program displays a link to a redemption web site).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the concept taught by Acres in the server of Yamaura, as modified by Von Kohorn, to provide means of searching the prize information database for the purpose of supplying the URL address of the prize information database in an email to the recipient so as to help the winner recipient quickly claim his or her prize.

However, Yamaura, as modified by Von Kohorn and further modified by Acres, fails to disclose that the prize involves digital contents that are enabled to play with the mobile terminal.

In the same field of endeavor, Landress et al. disclose a system for delivering customized multimedia communications (Abstract that disclose communicating personalized entertainment such as screensavers, reminder services, etc. integrally associated with sponsorship or advertisement information via the Internet or e-mail; paragraph 0004 that also specifies wireless networks used by cell phone users as delivery channels for the media delivery; paragraph 0016 additionally lists promotional "jingles" equivalent to cell phone ring tones and other audio segments (paragraph 0061, lines 1-5) as additional multimedia items to be delivered; paragraph 0060 that discloses an e-mail server 28a included in the web server 28 that allows users to send/receive e-mails; paragraph 0146, lines 8-11 that disclose the use of cellular phones in the system)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide prizes, such as screensavers and cell phone ring tones, as taught by Landress et al. in the system of Yamaura, as modified by Von Kohorn and further modified by Acres, to provide instant enjoyment of the prize that the recipient can play on a mobile terminal.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Yamaura (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2002/0016199 A1)** in view of **Acres (U.S.**

Patent Application Publication # 2002/0061778 A1), and further in view of Landress et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2003/0191816 A1).

Consider **claim 8**, and **as applied to claim 3 above**, Yamaura clearly shows and discloses an e-mail processing server. Yamaura also discloses sending e-mail to the second mobile terminal with a URL link to the web site that stores a prize information database (Fig. 8, block 35; paragraph 0048, which discloses that the e-mail includes prize information and homepage address in the form of a URL link).

Yamaura however fails to disclose that the e-mail processing server further comprises acquiring means for acquiring storing location information showing storing location on a network, where the digital contents are stored, from a database.

Yamaura also fails to disclose that the e-mail processing server in addition comprises storing location information sending means for attaching the storing location information acquired by the acquiring means to an e-mail, which is to be sent to a mobile terminal of the user who won the lot-drawing, and then sending the e-mail to the mobile terminal.

In the same field of endeavor, Acres clearly shows and discloses an acquiring means for acquiring storing location information showing storing location on a network, where contents of a prize awarded to a user who won the lot-drawing are stored, from a database (Fig. 10, blocks 1020, 1025, and 1027; paragraph 0033, lines 23-28, which disclose an acquiring means (game program database 1025 in the game/redemption server 1020) and a reward redemption database 1027 that the game program 1025

Art Unit: 2112

searches for the prize won by the user; Fig. 9, block 909; paragraph 0032, lines 18-20, which describe that the redemption routine displays a reward web page in order to facilitate selection and delivery of the reward, thereby disclosing an acquiring means that provides the location of awarded prizes); and storing location information sending means for attaching the storing location information acquired by the acquiring means to an e-mail, which is to be sent to a mobile terminal of the user who won the lot-drawing, and then sending the e-mail to the mobile terminal (Fig. 8, block 815; paragraph 0031, lines 28-29, which disclose that the game program displays a link to a redemption web site).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the concept taught by Acres in the server of Yamaura, to provide means of searching the prize information database for the purpose of supplying the URL address of the prize information database in an email to the recipient so as to help the winning recipient quickly claim his or her prize.

However, Yamaura as modified by Acres, fail to disclose that the prize involves digital contents that are enabled to play with the mobile terminal.

In the same field of endeavor, Landress et al. disclose a system for delivering customized multimedia communications (Abstract that disclose communicating personalized entertainment such as screensavers, reminder services, etc. integrally associated with sponsorship or advertisement information via the Internet or e-mail; paragraph 0004 that also specifies wireless networks used by cell phone users as delivery channels for the media delivery; paragraph 0016 additionally lists promotional

Art Unit: 2112

"jingles" equivalent to cell phone ring tones and other audio segments (paragraph 0061, lines 1-5) as additional multimedia items to be delivered; paragraph 0060 that discloses an e-mail server 28a included in the web server 28 that allows users to send/receive e-mails; paragraph 0146, lines 8-11 that disclose the use of cellular phones in the system).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide prizes, such as screensavers and cell phone ring tones, as taught by Landress et al. in the system of Yamaura, as modified by Acres, in order to provide instant enjoyment of the prize that the winning recipient can play on the mobile terminal.

Conclusion

Any response to this Office Action should be **faxed to (571) 273-8300 or mailed to:**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Art Unit: 2112

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to

Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

Art Unit: 2112

Examiner should be directed to Kishin G. Belani whose telephone number is (571) 270-1768. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 6:30 am to 5:00 pm.


If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Rafael Perez Gutierrez can be reached on (571) 270-1767 or (571) 272-7915. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free) or 703-305-3028.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist/customer service whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

Kishin G. Belani
K.G.B./kgb

January 1, 2007


RAFAEL PEREZ-GUTIERREZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

1/11/07